

Editorials/Commentary

Student Senate Asks Few Questions About Budgets

The great debate last year in Student Government was the "representativeness" or validity of the Student Senate. On the one hand, were those who maintained that the Senate somehow reflected the desires of the student population as a whole. These people attempted to act accordingly by giving emotional speeches about how their constituency felt this week and characterized anyone who spoke in opposition to their pet project as self-interested egoists.

On the other hand, was a group who viewed Student Government as a game played as the whims of the administration, exercising as much authority as the powers that be allowed. This second group, a minority in the controversy, said they played the game out of personal enjoyment, be it monetary compensation or informal education.

This intellectual exchange will be totally irrelevant this year, if last week's Student Senate meeting is any indication of what's to come. The "great debate" seems futile if the Senate does nothing upon which the arguments from either side can be based.

The budgets of the campus media, the Summit, the Ridgerunner, and radio station WUNF, were introduced at the first Senate meeting of the year (a record in itself). Little discussion of them occurred; presumably the Senators would familiarize themselves with the details during the week, ask the organizations making the requests about particular items, and be prepared to intelligently discuss the budgets at the next meeting.

The Student Senate had its second meeting last Thursday at 5:00, allowing only an hour and a half for the consideration of three budgets totaling over \$15,000, in addition to the introduction of five other budgets amounting to almost \$12,000.

The Summit budget was first on the agenda. A few questions were asked about the number of copies being order-

ed, and the yearbook's past methods of financing. Following some heated discussion about the "quality" of this year's book, the budget passed, intact, by a vote of four ayes and five abstentions (either the remnants of a rumored S. G. conspiracy to kill the Summit, avoiding future accountability, or blatant ignorance).

The Ridgerunner budget request experienced the same thorough scrutiny. After apologetically cutting a \$150 request for office carpet, and giving the editor complete freedom in spending \$4500 for "printing costs," the Ridgerunner budget passed unanimously.

The radio station request was the highlight of the evening. Following the suspension of the rules to avoid reading the seven page document (it was never publically read), WUNF's budget passed. The whole process took less than one minute.

S. G. President Gary Aiken frequently warned the Senate throughout the meeting that it was allocating money it did not yet have. Although technically correct (the business office has not provided an official estimate of first semester revenues), the Senate, for all practical purposes, will have at least \$30,000 this semester. Aiken's veto threats went unheeded by the Senate.

The problem being alluded to, is simply that the Senate is not doing its job. Despite one's interpretation of Student Government, the Student Senate has a certain responsibility to spend the student's money reasonably. Questions should be asked, investigations should be conducted, the rules of the game should be learned.

Obviously, the Senate is composed of people with vested interests (the radio station ran its slate of candidates last year and Aiken still has a small block of votes). At least the Student Senate could make it look like it's doing something, instead of sitting around the table playing "switch."

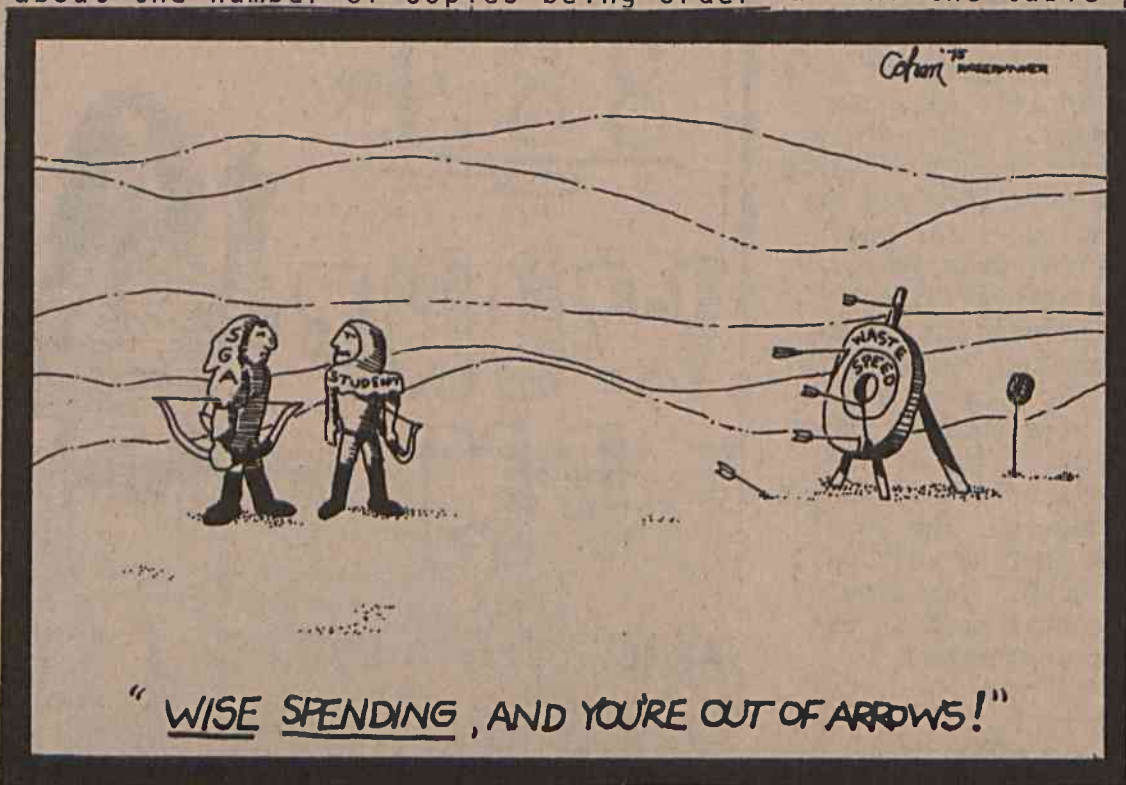
Faculty Slave On Ph.D.s

BY JACKIE STEPHENSON
Several poor souls at UNCA are currently working diligently in an attempt to obtain that job-saving title known as the Doctorate.

Charlotte O'Kelly, instructor in Sociology completed her Ph.D. April 29 of this year. When interviewed, Dr. O'Kelly commented that her contract with UNCA was contingent on her completing her doctorate in Sociology. Dr. O'Kelly received her Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. Ms. O'Kelly's dissertation was entitled The Black Pro-test Movement. Although no longer employed at UNCA (having accepted a position at Providence University, Providence, Rhode Island), Dr. O'Kelly observed that UNCA seemed to be weeding out those academicians who are not blessed with a "Dr." in front of their name.

Larry Carney, Assistant Professor in Sociology is currently working on his dissertation entitled Political Development of Colombia. Mr. Car-

CONT. Pg. 5...



letters to the editor

To the Editor:

One publication on a rock deserves another; therefore we write.

As this newspaper seems to hold the position of disdain concerning the broken window incident, and security's methods in handling the situation, perhaps the staff would approve of the following proposal as a preventative of future like incidents.

- 1) Possession of a rock on campus be declared a felony.
- 2) All rocks in the vicinity of, or on campus be removed or

secured.

3) Doc's "Rock" shop declared off limits to campus staff and students.

4) Commuter students be periodically searched for illegal possession of rocks.

5) In the event of a rock-slide, campus be declared under martial law, and violators of rock statutes shall be maced.

6) Geologists, Rock hounds, collectors etc. be required to obtain a permit to possess rocks, and a one week waiting period be instated

CONT. Pg. 5...

THE RIDGERUNNER

The University of North Carolina at Asheville

EDITOR-David Ramseur
Business Manager-Michael Rhodes

STAFF: joan adams/amy arnold/becky brown/david cohen/evertt corn/
lenny crowley/leslie deane/randy ernst/bob lehman/wayne jackson/
allison philips/forrest reid/gail smith/jackie stephenson/tim
thielke/tom zumberge